# MONTEREY NEWS

**March 2022 Est. 1970**
**Vol. LII · Number 3**


Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

*The February meeting of the council on aging which meets on the second and fourth Monday each month, at 10 a.m., at town hall. Around the table beginning at the left: Joann Bell, Roberta Weiss, Roz Halberstadter, Emily Hadsell (CoA outreach worker), Lin Saberski (chair), Kyle Pierce, and Kay Purcell. Behind the camera was Maureen Banner, who was recently appointed to the council.*

Do you have a vintage car that wants to drive very slowly through our town? Goats and horses that want to clomp down the road? A costume or ensemble dying to be marched through town?
Memorial Day Parade page 9

Western Massachusetts has a particularly high potential for carbon storage because so many local trees are in the 70- to 125-year age range.
Seeing the Forest and the Trees page 18

As we approached, the boy's voice got louder and he appeared out into a small opening where we could see him. When we got to him he said he was alright. "What happened?" "I saw some turkeys and I chased them."
Lost Boy Found page 28

The Monterey Cemetery Commission is continuing to looking for photos of Monterey veterans both past and present.
Veterans Photo Parade page 21

Dennis and Elaine Lynch wrote that the "elegant-looking bobcat was lurking around our backyard on the hunt for an afternoon snack."
Wildlife page 26

Shrews on the other hand have inspired fear in folks, and been attributed with the power both to damage and to protect.
Tales of the Shrews page 20

We're so happy to have kicked off Monterey's 175th anniversary with the Monterey Community Center's Winterfest!
175th Anniversary! page 8

## Daylight Savings Time
"Spring Ahead"
Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m.

**Community Health Program's mobile vaccination unit** will be at the community center on Thursday, March 10, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Five-years-old and up. All vaccines, including flu, and boosters available.

We agreed to focus on a limited first step: solar power for town buildings. Such installations are familiar, have minimal visual impact, and make a significant contribution to clean energy.
Renewable Energy Group page 4

Let me close by stating that I love Monterey. It is my sincere hope that it remains a place where neighbors are kind to one another, look after each other, and help each other.
Positive Thinking page 2

With four resignations the select board reached out to three former conservation commission members to see if they would be willing to accept appointments until May.
Conservation Commission page 6

Our committee is attempting to make our bylaws clear, concise, and consistently presented.
Bylaw Review Committee page 4

As a crossword puzzler myself, I was astonished to learn that Julie and Frank's current streak exceeds six hundred days of completing the puzzle on time with no errors.
Julie and Frank Kern page 13

## Upcoming Town Elections

Below is the list of offices that may be voted upon at town elections on Tuesday, May 4. The number of seats is shown in parenthesis, followed by the length of term.

Board of Appeals (1) 5 years
Board of Assessors (1) 3 years
Board of Health (1) 3 years
Board of Health (1) 2 years
Bylaw Review Committee (1) 1 year
Bylaw Review Committee (2) 2 years
Bylaw Review Committee (2) 3 years
Constable (1) 3 years
Cemetery Committee (1) 3 years
Finance Committee (1) 3 years
Library Trustees (2) 3 years
Library Trustees (1) 2 year term
Library Trustees (1) 1 year term
Moderator (1) 1 year
Parks Commission (1) 1 year
Parks Commission (2) 3 years
Planning Board (2) 5 years
Planning Board (1) 1 year
Select Board (1) 3 years
Tax Collector (1) 3 years
Tree Warden (1) 1 year

The town always benefits by having a full slate of candidates so that no office remains unfilled. To get on the ballot for any of these positions, a registered Monterey voter must be nominated by one of the party caucuses or gather at least twenty-five certifiable voters signatures on a nomination paper filed with the town clerk. A candidate does not need to be registered to a party to seek nomination from either or both parties.

## Town Party Meetings

### Democratic Party Caucus

The Democratic caucus will meet on Saturday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m., at the library. It will be a hybrid (in-person and online) meeting. For more intormation contact the committee at MontereyDems@outlook.com.

### Republican Party Caucus

The Republican caucus will be on Saturday, March 26, at 1:30 p.m. This will be a socially-distanced, in-person caucus at a location to be decided. The location will be posted in public places around town. You can email Mark Makuc, at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com for more information.

The last day to submit nomination papers to the registrars of voters is Tuesday, March 22, at 5 p.m. The last time to object to or withdraw a nomination is Thursday, April 7, at 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote is Saturday, April 16, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., at town hall.

The last day permissible for the town to publish the town warrant in advance of town meeting, which will be mailed to all registered town voters, is on Saturday, April 30.

The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 7. Election of town officers will follow on Tuesday, May 10.

For questions or further information, contact Terry Walker, Monterey Town Clerk, by calling (413) 528-1443, ext. 113, or by emailing at clerk@montereyma.gov.

## Candidate Statements

### April or May Issues?

If you have been nominated for an office, or filed nomination papers for yourself, you may want to publish a candidate's statement in the *Monterey News*. The paper will be happy to publish candidate statements in the April or May issues.

The timing of the party caucuses on March 26 makes publishing candidate statements in the April issue difficult. If you anticipate a party nomination and would like to publish a statement in the April issue, then perhaps it should be drafted ahead of time. However, with town elections not until May 10, there would be time to publish statements in the May issue.

The *News* would also be pleased to publish letters of support for candidates. It would be helpful if you know of others who are intending to write in support of the same candidate to agree on one letter to be published.

Also, please feel free to offer a perspective on any issues to be decided at town meeting by sending a letter to the *News*. Part of the mission of the paper is to encourage community conversations.

The deadline for the *Monterey News* is typically on the 20th of each month. Your letters must be signed, and can be emailed (preferred) to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent first class, to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

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## In My View
### Positive Thinking (and Acting)

As the current select board session grinds toward its conclusion, the idea of what truly benefits Monterey becomes quite clear. That is "positivity."

Like Dr. Norman Vincent (and others) wrote, being "positive" helps with how you feel, act, and react both emotionally and physically. It also influences the world around you. Positive thinkers create a more resilient, productive, inclusive and safe world.

Think about Monterey. The work that built and maintains the library, the community center, and yes, even the transfer station, was done by positive people, to make other people's lives better.

If you believe this is obvious and not worth exploring, lets briefly talk about what's currently going on in town.

Monterey is being hit with a wave of negativity like at no other time. Negative actions like lawsuits by select board member John Weingold, OML complaints and public records requests by finance committee member Jon Sylbert, boycotts from Weingold and Sylbert and others, accusations, investigations, and the sharing of private messages, are symptoms of a "negative spiral."

Just like positive actions will yield positive reactions, negativity builds upon itself and causes people to get angrier and angrier. Eventually, if unchecked, those people will destroy themselves and the world around them.

I am not a therapist. I have no training as such. I do not pretend to know what is in the hearts or minds of some of the very negative people in our town. Everything I am writing here is based on my own personal observations over the past two years.

It concerns me that this negativity is growing like a cancer. Monterey has already lost talented and caring employees and volunteers over it. Soon, town taxpayers will get the bill for tens of thousands of dollars that were spent because of it. Eventually, the lawsuits, official complaints, and investigations may drive out even the hardiest of us and dissuade others from participating. What will be left will be an angry, paranoid, litigious group that will ultimately turn on themselves.

We can turn this around. There are far more positive people in Monterey, than not. I receive wonderful letters of support and ideas from people who are concerned and truly care. Efforts like the Pickup Pantry, our Covid response, and a myriad of programs run by employees and volunteers thru the community center (for example, the recent Winterfest), prove that positivity exists and can grow.

The key to stymieing the negative forces is to choose leaders who are for positive change in town. Candidates for any board or committee should demonstrate positive actions, positive speech, and putting the needs of the people before their own ego, sense of entitlement, personal grievances, or desire to prove they are the "smartest person in town."

The other key to salvaging our town is speaking out.

Many of you know who the negative players are. As Dr. King had often remarked, they exist because people remain silent. If you are bothered by the actions of negative people, let them know publicly. As we are witnessing, the negative people have no problem expressing themselves.

Let me close by stating that I love Monterey. It is my sincere hope that it remains a place where neighbors are kind to one another, look after each other, and help each other. Not because someone suggested it, or wrote it in a book, but because you realize that it will enhance your own precious and short life on this earth.

—Steven Weisz
Chair, Monterey Select Board

*Editor's Note:* In My View *provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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## Bylaw Review Committee

The bylaw review committee, which was approved by the voters at last summer's annual town meeting, has met three times. We are making progress doing a thorough review of Monterey Town Bylaws. For the most part our town is governed by the Massachusetts General Law (MGL). In addition, there are a host of bylaws the select board has put forward and the town voters have approved over the years. The town bylaws were written at different times over many decades. They are written in different styles.

Our committee is attempting to make them clear, concise, and consistently presented. Once we conclude this process, we will submit them for review by the select board, and approval by the voters. We are only a part of the way through the review and at this juncture, we have not included or recommended any substantive changes in our draft. Our draft is maintained as a Google doc which is available to view upon request from the town administrator at admin@montereyma.gov.

Meetings are open to the public, the next will be held on Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m., at the community center (masks still required). Agendas and minutes may be found on the Monterey town website, montereyma.gov.

— Stuart Litwin
Chair, Bylaw Review Committee

*Editor's Note: As established by the voters at the 2021 annual town meeting, all five seats of the bylaw committee will be open for election on May 10. See "Upcoming Town Elections" on page 2 for details.*

## Renewable Energy Working Group

Last December, inspired by the thoughtful way that the Lake Garfield Working Group addresses environmental matters around the lake, I proposed that the select board authorize a Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group to explore what the town can do to address climate change by renewable energy generation. The board approved the idea and established the new public body.

There is a wide variety of projects to research, and a thicket of government programs to navigate for cost-effective financial support. As many Monterey homeowners have already done, the town could install photovoltaic arrays (solar panels) on its own buildings. The town could also generate power from renewable sources at greater than residential scale, as other Berkshire towns have done. After ten persistent years of work, Otis' state-of-the-art wind turbine went on line in 2018; Stockbridge leased its capped landfill for a utility-scale solar field; Sandisfield will soon have solar panels for its town buildings.

Climate change has a long and varied must-do list. In our early meetings, we indulged in some very wide-ranging conversations, but soon reined in the talk.

But even at small scale, there is much for our group and Monterey voters to learn. Recent grants by a state program called Green Communities have been tied to reductions in energy use by town-owned buildings and vehicles. This is measured in BTUs (British Thermal Units, a measure of energy), without regard for the source of energy. Completion of Monterey's application to be designated a Green Community is expected by mid-March. Subsequent approval may bring a substantial grant. The grant may fund "municipal energy technical assistance," such as a feasibility study for solar panels associated with town buildings. (As of this writing, that outcome is uncertain; rules for the use of grant funds can change with new funding cycles.)

For various reasons, Otis is the rare Massachusetts town that has not sought Green Community designation. "Free money is never free" is an Otis tag line, meaning that, over the years, restrictions on the use of Green Community grants did not fit their particular vision for energy efficiency and independence. They now own their $6 million wind turbine (and its power) with help from a federal bond and certain state programs—but their wind-swept, sparsely populated turbine location abutting a stone quarry is as unique as their independence. Otis may not be a Green Community, but, for more than a decade, its citizens have worked hard, with support from voters, to become a super-green town.

Does Monterey want to own a system for generating power from renewable sources, at small scale or large? If so, there are a number of decisions to make. We could own a system and its power, store it in batteries, and use the energy here. Or we could net-meter the juice, selling any excess to National Grid (the town utility). Or we could lease land or >

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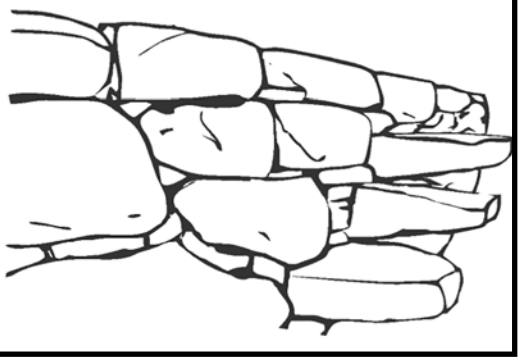

rooftops to a third-party energy producer, a choice that would relieve the town of operational responsibility, and allow the producer to take advantage of tax breaks not available to a municipality. The town could then buy the electricity generated for what is usually an attractive rate.

Monterey's fire house and pavilion are promising structures for rooftop solar panels. Because the Monterey Fire Company owns its land and buildings, the town and the fire company would need to agree on all the details before proceeding with any such plan.

Meanwhile, remember that since 2017 Monterey has participated in a state program which aggregates all town users who do not opt out, enabling them to get their electricity at a competitive price and specify that a certain percentage of the power be generated from renewable sources.

The working group will continue to sort out the details, and keep you up to date.

—Peter Murkett, Chair
Monterey Renewable Energy
Working Group

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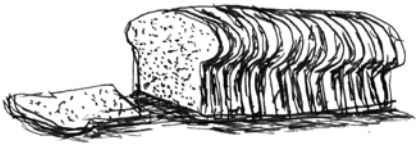
## Council on Aging

### What's Next?

Last summer, with the help of forty-nine Monterey households and two skilled, highly-committed outreach workers, Pauline Banducci and Laura Knoepler, the council was able to learn a lot about what our residents sixty years and better are looking for. Curious? The same things I imagine most non-senior households in Monterey are looking for. A list would easily fill the rest of this page and more—no exaggeration. Everything from author talks to birdwatching walks; from painting groups to garden tours; from knitting to biking, as well as outings to nearby points of interest. In addition to wanting to get together to pursue common interests, the visited households almost all expressed a desire to help others when need is evident. And those ideas were from just a relative few of our roughly four hundred seniors in Monterey.

The CoA wants to continue, as we always have, to travel along both of these paths: spending time together and responding to the needs of the vulnerable among us. But we need your help prioritizing what's most important to you. Activities will be back once our shared Covid health concerns have lessened and the weather warms. A first step is to establish a way to communicate with as many of you as possible. Email works best, though we won't rely on it exclusively. The council plans to email a very short survey to Monterey seniors in March asking how you get your local news and what activities you would most like to see the council arrange. To make sure your voice is heard, please join our Monterey seniors list by emailing Emily Hadsell, our outreach coordinator, at coaoutreach@montereyma.gov, or call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112. We look forward to shaping the future of the CoA with you!

—Lin Saberski
Acting Chair, Council on Aging



Janet Jensen

## Parks Commission

The Monterey Parks Commission hopes that you have taken advantage of any snow and ice we have had this year, as you used our excellent skating rink, attended Winterfest at the community center, and hiked, walked, or snowshoed right here in Monterey. Many thanks to our intrepid hockey players who have kept the rink going throughout the season.

If you are now beginning to think about kayaking on Lake Garfield on a peaceful summer morning, go directly to the parks commission page on the town website (montereyma.gov). There you will find applications and instructions for the "Water Vessel Storage Lottery" for 2022 which will take place on April 15. Due to popular demand there will be ten double-vessel permits allotted for two members of the same household. Please choose which lottery you would like to enter, and send your application soon to the parks commission at the town hall.

—Tracey Brennan
Monterey Parks Commission

## Conservation Commission
### Resignations and Appointments

On January 30 and January 31, Jeremy Ravitz, Nancy Tomasovich, Michael Zisser, and Leslie Lichter, members of Monterey's Conservation Commission resigned. Their resignation letters all allude to obstacles and challenges claiming they have been well documented. Their letters are no more specific about their complaints.

Conservation commission minutes from December 8 and December 17 (available on montereyma.gov/conservation-commission) show some issues that might have contributed to their frustration but are likely not the whole story.

### New Commissioners

With these resignations the select board reached out to three former conservation commission members to see if they would be willing to accept appointments until May. Chris Blair, Tim Lovett, and Dave Dempsey agreed, and join Margo Drohan, who did not resign with the others, to form a new commission. It appears that Ms. Drohan has not attended ConCom meetings in quite a while.

## Join the Conservation Commission

Hello Montereyans,

The newly appointed Monterey Conservation Commission is looking for individuals who would like to be appointed to the commission to help carry out our unfunded mandate of protecting our local rivers, streams, mountainsides, coldwater fisheries, and general habitat from harm or destruction. We meet once a month. Interest in environmental regulations would be good. Training is available and recommended. Please send letters of interest to Conservation Commission, Attn: New Member, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA, 01245; email to ccagent@montereyma.gov.; or call Chris Blair during the week at (413) 528-4960.

Thank you.

—Chris Blair
Chair, Conservation Commission

The last meeting with the previous commission was on December 17. The first meeting of the reconstituted commission was held on February 15.

—Stephen Moore

## Monterey Library
### Children's Programming Assistant

The library is looking for someone to help with children's programs this summer. The idea came from the Friends of the Monterey Library, who are generously funding part of the position. The program is also supported by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. There will be a stipend from both funding sources.

We would like someone to assist the library by being available during the children's programs on Saturday mornings in July and August. Duties would also include assisting young patrons in participating in the statewide summer reading program, which promotes reading and library use with logs, activities, and prizes. We are hoping to start some scheduled children's times at the library, perhaps including a craft hour and/or a story hour. And we are open to any other ideas that would promote library use. The librarians will be more than happy to assist in all of this. The statewide program shares ideas that can be used, even if only as a starting point. >

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## McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships

The scholarship funds for students in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) are accepting applications by March 15. Some scholarships are specifically available to students in our immediate area.

Of special interest to Monterey students is the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund. Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion.

The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one "Common Application" with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online. Go to berkshiretaconic.org/, click on "Receive" to find the scholarship search bar.

Ideally this person would be available sometime in June to set up the summer reading program and prepare for activities during July and August. There would be opportunities to plan, promote, and conduct children's activities. The library is hoping to find someone who enjoys working with children of all ages up to twelve years old, and has creative ideas. While it is an ideal summer internship for a student, this person could be any age, including a senior citizen or a parent. The time commitment would include our regularly scheduled July and beginning of August Saturday morning programming, but would be flexible as long as other planned activities are during the library scheduled open hours. We are thinking that this will be at least five hours a week, but probably no more than ten.

If you or anyone you know is interested in this, please contact the library at montereylibrary@gmail.com, but also feel free to stop in and discuss with the library director. We would like to use our resources to benefit the children of Monterey! Many thanks to the Friends for their thoughtful idea and the cultural council for assisting in making this a reality.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

## Youth Summer Cultural Grants

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of the foundation. The fund awards grants of $200 to $800 to young people ages thirteen to nineteen for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

Applications and guidelines are available online at BerkshireTaconic.org/. Search for "Simple Gifts."

## Contributions in February

Thanks to all our contributors and our many advertisers. Coming soon to a mail box or email inbox near you will be our spring fund raising effort. It is critical to our continued ability to bring you a slice of our town's life.

George Emmons
Sharon Rosenberg
Jane Allen & Dan Levy
Natalie Powell
John Callahan

Correction: A donation was listed in January from Howard and Pat Nourse. This turns out to have been wrong. Howard passed away in November and the donation was in memory of Howard.

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## 175th Anniversary! Update

We're so happy to have kicked off Monterey's 175th anniversary with the Monterey Community Center's Winterfest! There was a great turnout and even a little snow. (See pages 16-17.) It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community and make some long-lasting memories, which is exactly what this year is all about.

Coming up next is the town's day of incorporation, Tuesday, April 12. We're hoping to have some sort of community dinner, though plans are yet to be finalized considering both Covid and the weather.

You can stay up to date by following us on Facebook and Instagram (@welovemontereymass). We also have a spot for news on the town website—you can't miss the tab in the banner on the top! We appreciate the community's support as we celebrate the town's anniversary, and we're looking forward to the festivities ahead.

—Nadia Makuc
Chair, 175th Anniversary planners

**Monterey is 175!**
1847-2022
We've only just begun...

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Tuesday, April 12th**
Anniversary Commemoration
**Monday, May 30th**
Memorial Day Parade
**Saturday, June 25th**
Bidwell House Museum Country Fair
**Saturday, July 30th**
Book Sale & Steak Roast
**Friday, August 5th**
Community Contra Dance
**Saturday, August 6th**
Lake Fest

## Rabies Clinic

There will be a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Monterey Firehouse.


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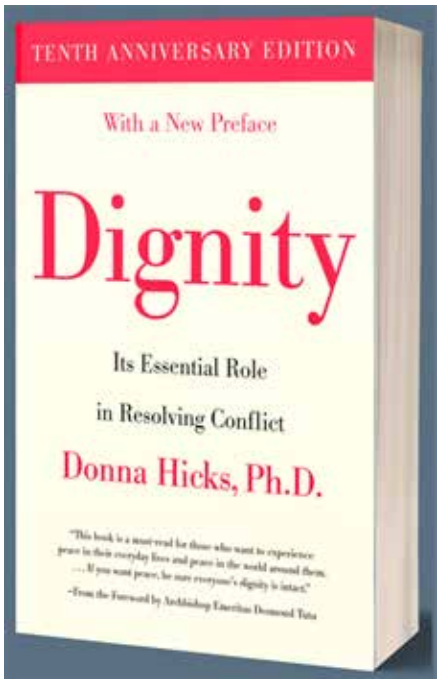


## 175th Anniversary!
### Bringing Dignity to Monterey

Dr. Donna Hicks, the author of *Dignity* and *Leading with Dignity* will share her Dignity model with our community on Thursday, April 14, at 11 a.m. Two days prior we will have celebrated the 175th anniversary of the signing of our town charter on Tuesday, April 12.

"This book is a must read for those who want to experience peace in their everyday lives and peace in the world around them…. If you want peace, be sure everyone's dignity is intact."—Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

We hope to gather in the library and community center to interact with Donna virtually as she shares her Dignity model with us. It will also be possible to join via a Zoom link from home or office anywhere you may be.

Please come together and support this event to bring dignity to Monterey.

For information please email laurenbehrman@gmail.com.

—Lauren Behrman

## 175th Anniversary!
### Join The Memorial Day Parade

This year the parade is back! And it is not just any parade—it is part of Monterey's 175th Anniversary. You are invited to be part of this memorable Memorial Day Parade! We want to make it a parade to remember.

- Do you have a vintage car that wants to drive very slowly through our town?
- Goats and horses that want to clomp down the road?
- Doggies that want to show off?
- A group, committee, or bunch of friends who want to build and ride a float?
- A costume or ensemble dying to be marched through town?
- Something that represents the year the town was founded in 1847?

If you want to be a part of the fun, email us at montereyis175@gmail.com. Don't let our 175th Anniversary Memorial Day Parade pass you by!

—Ilene Marcus & Tom Sawyer
175th parade coordinators

*A page commemorating Monterey's 125th Anniversary in 1972.*

## March at the Knox Gallery

If you picked up this issue of the *Monterey News* just as it hit the newsstands you should have a couple of days left to get a peek at *Expressions of Recovery: Work presented by members of the Gould Farm Community*, which features paintings, collage/mixed media works, and photographs by current and former Gould Farm program participants. The work, and accompanying written materials, tell meaningful stories of the artists' journeys. Please see the exhibit if you haven't; the exhibit closes on March 5.

We are pleased to present *Lean—Clean—Linear*, recent paintings by Pauline Nault, beginning on March 11.

Nault states that hibernation required by Covid has provided her more time to reflect, learn, and experiment. She has used this opportunity to further her focus on the varied properties of line. "The line is a geometric figure that speaks for itself," she offers. "It can make a statement or a complete design. I enjoy the subtlety of the perfect placement of line in a composition. It can be powerful."

Nault rescues her older paintings by painting new work over them. This adds texture, and combined with her reduced color palette, softens the hard-edged geometrics that she is currently exploring.

Stephen Donaldson

"Painting is an endless and exciting pleasure," the artist muses. "Come, enjoy the show," she adds, and we hope you will!

*Lean—Clean—Linear* will be on view through April 16, 2022.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

# History of Monterey at 175
## A Treasure Hunt through Monterey's Attics

On April 12, 1847, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed Chapter 172 of the Acts of 1847 incorporating Monterey as a separate town. On May 1, 1847, Monterey's first town meeting was convened. In 2022 we celebrate our town's 175th anniversary, and throughout the year, we'll be printing vignettes about the history of Monterey in the *Monterey News*. This series of articles is a collaboration between the Monterey Historical Society, Bidwell House Museum, the Monterey 175th Committee, and the Monterey Library. We'll offer some "snapshots" of the town's history using extracts from previous histories, newspaper articles, post cards, and earlier anniversary booklets interspersed with more recent documents and interpretations.

During the month of July, the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library will host an historical exhibit, *Monterey's Attic*, featuring historical artifacts from the collections of the Monterey Historical Society and the Bidwell House Museum. We invite townspeople to hunt through your attics for some hidden treasures—photos, letters, memorabilia, artifacts, artwork—that might be exhibited. Please email me with ideas or suggestions at rhoogs@verizon.net.

Although we're celebrating Monterey's incorporation in 1847, the town's history goes back much further, including thousands of years of habitation and stewardship by Native Americans. Monterey is on the route of one of the main "Indian Paths" between the Connecticut River valley and the Hudson River valley. (More about Native Americans in future articles.)

There are mentions in old written records about this area. It was sometimes known as the "Greenwoods"—other times as a "hideous howling wilderness." William Pynchon, founder of Springfield, used the Indian path in the early 1600s for travel between his fur trading posts in Springfield and Albany. It is "the probable route of Maj. Talcott, in his pursuit and capture of a body of Indians in Southern Berkshire, in 1676, the first whites known to have invaded the territory of Berkshire county. Later on [the road] afforded a mode of entry to the founders of most of the towns of Southern Berkshire, and over it passed the commerce between them and their neighbors east and west. Later still, it witnessed the marshaled array of Gen. Amherst and his army, in 1759, the soldiers of the Revolution, Burgoyne and his captured army en-route to Boston, the soldiers of the war of 1812-15, while many a weary pilgrim, long since passed away, enjoyed the hospitality of its numerous taverns of by-gone days." *[The Gazeteer of Berkshire County, 1885]*

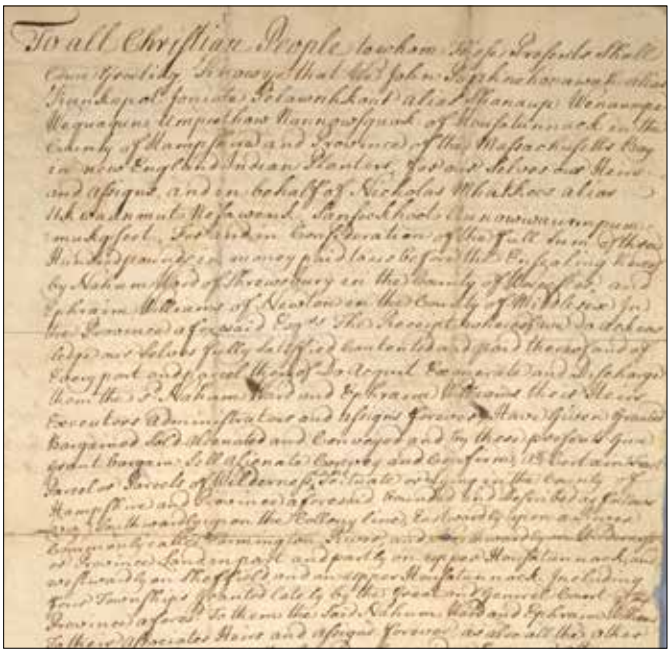

*Figure 1: Portion of 1737 Deed for Four Townships from Chief Konkapot and others, courtesy of Williams College.*

## Monterey's Founding in Brief

Four "Housatonic Townships" were chartered by the General Court in 1735 and the area for the four future towns was "purchased" from the Native Americans in 1737 for three hundred pounds. (See portion of the deed, Fig. 1, above.) During the 1740s, Township Number One was slowly populated by English Colonists; Reverend Adonijah Bidwell was ordained as a "Gospel Preaching Minister," and the church was formed in October 1750. The meeting house was sufficiently completed to be used and the first "Proprietors' Meeting" was held in Township No. 1 in 1753. (Prior meetings were held in Watertown, MA where many of the original proprietors lived.) In 1762, Township Number One was incorporated as Tyringham.

Henry Knox passed through the town on January 10, 1776 with "42 exceeding strong sleds" and "80 yoke of oxen," to carry 59 cannon and mortars captured at Ticonderoga to Boston. He noted in his diary: "[January] 10th reach'd No. 1 after have Climb'd mountains from which we might almost have seen all the Kingdoms of the Earth. 11th went 12 miles thro' the Green Woods to Blandford. It appears to me almost a miracle that people with heavy loads should be able to get up & down such Hills as are here …" (See diary, Fig. 2, next page.) The cannon were emplaced on Dorchester Heights in March 1776 and convinced the British troops to evacuate Boston, giving General Washington his first victory.

Berkshire residents fought in many of the battles of the Revolutionary War,


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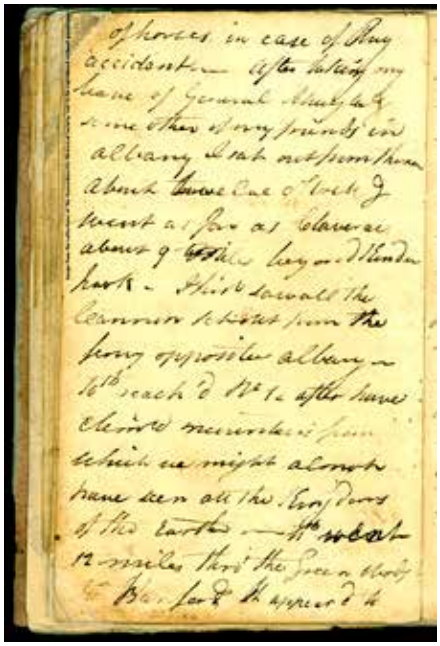

*Figure 2 Portion of Henry Knox's diary, courtesy Mass. Historical Society.*

including Lexington, Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga, Bennington, Monmouth, and elsewhere. Colonel Giles Jackson of Tyringham (Monterey) was a decorated soldier; he also sired twenty children in town who attended—and filled—the "Rock Schoolhouse" along Beartown Mountain Road.

By the year 1800, there were about 1700 residents in Tyringham. This was the peak of the combined towns' population. During the 1820s, the population declined as many people moved from this cold, rocky land to the newly opened "west"—New York, Indiana, Ohio—that was opened up for settlement after the War of 1812 ended in 1815, making these lands part of the United States, and facilitated by the completion of the Erie Canal.

Despite population decline, industries flourished in the 1800s along the many rivers and streams in the South Berkshires, including the Konkapot River, Hop Brook, Umpachenee River, as well as the Housatonic River and Farmington River. It's amazing how many cellar holes, road ways, stone walls, and mill sites are found in what are today deep woods!

Next month, we'll delve deeper into the town's early history leading up to its incorporation as Monterey in 1847.

—Rob Hoogs

## Bidwell House Museum
### Winter Lecture Series

The days are getting longer even if there is still a chill in the air and spring will be here before we know it. In February we began our online winter lecture series about the Indigenous peoples of western Massachusetts and we finish out that series this month with two more lectures.

On Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m., we will present Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies. Her talk will focus on the Mohican presence in northwest Connecticut. Early European documents demonstrate that Mohican tribal homelands extended east and south into what is now Connecticut, with known villages reported in what would become the towns of Salisbury, Sharon, and Canaan. The documentary evidence reveals stable, peaceful social and political relationships between Mohicans and Housatonic Valley tribal communities to their south, particularly the Schaghticoke (a.k.a. Scaticook).

Then on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m., we will screen *The Great Falls*, the first film in a series called "Hidden Landscapes," created by Theodore Timreck. Using oral histories, interviews, and archaeological evidence, Timreck investigates the legacy of the Indigenous peoples around the region known today as Turners Falls, Massachusetts. The film runs about eighty minutes and we will stop a few times during the screening for a brief discussion and questions. Since the mid-70s Ted Timreck has specialized in portraits of artists for PBS and anthropological programming for the Smithsonian Institution. He holds a research position at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in the anthropology department, and he has worked extensively with Smithsonian scientists documenting field research, producing video and electronic media for the national museum, along with independent programming for public and cable television.

Both programs will be presented on Zoom. Registration is required and can be completed on the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/events. The Zoom details for the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.

Finally, don't forget that the Bidwell grounds and trails are open year-round, free of charge, so get out of the house and get some fresh Monterey air with a walk in the woods. The grounds have been a busy place this winter and we have noticed many cross-country ski tracks, snowshoe trails, and animal footprints all over the property. As always, trail maps can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the Trails page at our website.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For more information, go to bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Happy Spring everyone!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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## Who's Who
### Julie and Frank Kern

Perhaps the prettiest house sign in Monterey, an artist's palette painted deep red, is at 4 Art School Road, an homage to the street's past. Were you new to Monterey, both the size and classical eighteenth-century New England style of the structure might lead you to believe that you had found the Bidwell House Museum, an understandable error many a visitor has made. In fact, they've stumbled upon the home of the Kerns—Julie and Frank, and their children, Melanie and Adam. They share their home with Charlie, a two-year old boxer, still a pup at heart, who was appropriately suspicious of me at first.

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A few of the misguided Bidwell seekers would just saunter in with a friendly, "Hi, when does the tour start?" only to discover embarrassingly that they'd barged in on a family lunch. Julie recalls one outraged woman years ago berating her for not putting more clear directions "on the website." The sign that sits on their corner now clearly states: Bidwell House 1 Mile, which cuts down but hasn't completely put an end to the lost souls, so the Kerns have become used to cheerfully pointing up the road and saying, "Just keep going!"

The house is beautiful inside and out, with the oldest section dating back to 1747. The original builder was Nathan Hale's uncle, Deacon William Hale, who married Hannah Brewer. The signature of one of their twelve children, John Hale, is still visible on one of the beams inside. They had a years-long search for this dream house. Frank and Julie's first summer renting in Monterey was over thirty years ago in 1989, and like so many others, they fell in love with this little town they had never heard of. Frank tells how, when looking for the address of this summer rental, they drove back and forth on Route 23 between Otis and Great Barrington not realizing they'd missed Monterey twice.

After a number of years, tired of renting, and wanting the kids to have memories of their own home instead of someone else's, they took the leap of faith to buy the house in 2000. Although in dire need of repair, they lived there about nine years before embarking on a four-year restoration of the house and outbuildings. Frank was fully involved in the process. Michael White was chosen for his extensive experience with historic restorations. Working in his family business that owns and maintains apartment houses in New York City, Frank has always been hands-on, becoming the go-to guy who learned "how to do everything but not very well."

Though they attended the same high school in Westchester County, NY, and both went to camps in the Berkshires (he Mahkeenac, she Eisner), it wasn't until years later that they were fixed up on a blind date. Julie was reluctant at first, but her friend encouraged her: "How bad could it be?" A question inviting a host of replies; mostly funny, rarely encouraging. Clearly, the blind date turned out not to be bad at all!

As is true of most well-matched couples, their interests and passions seem a healthy mix of shared and separate. I noticed a crossword puzzle on the table where we spoke, one of the *NY Times* year-end whoppers. As a crossword puzzler myself, I was astonished to learn that Julie and Frank's current streak exceeds six hundred days of completing the puzzle on time with no errors. "Doing crosswords got us through Covid," they agreed.

Another shared interest is their involvement with LitNet, The Literacy

Network of the Southern Berkshires, which for thirty years has provided tutoring and language assistance to immigrants from more than thirty countries. Currently they meet on Zoom with an Ecuadorian family from Pittsfield—Frank with the parents, Julie the daughter. As they spoke, I could feel that their relationship is one of mutuality, more like friends helping and teaching one another.

As she reflected on their earlier days in Monterey, Julie fondly recalled what became a kind of town beach ritual. After picking up Melanie and Adam from Eisner Day Camp, or on the weekends, they would head for Lake Garfield. After swimming and playing in the sand, it was time for a "shade break." Spreading out blankets and towels, around which kids and their parents would gather, she would read stories and everyone would have snacks. This group was to become the nucleus of some of their closest Berkshire friends, along with all of their "wonderful neighbors." So I was not surprised to learn that Julie is a psychiatric occupational therapist, a profession where the ability to create a safe, welcoming group atmosphere is a must. Though she no longer provides clinical treatment to patients, Julie has continued her OT career. As an adjunct professor at Columbia University's Masters in OT Program, she lectures and provides clinical site supervision. A bonus of my visit with the Kerns was discovering that Julie and I have had many colleagues in common.

Frank and Julie are understandably proud of their children. Melanie, 29, has a Master's Degree from NYU in social work. She, like most young hipsters, has recently moved to Brooklyn. She loves working with young children. Adam, 25, lives in Somerville, and is at MIT's Lincoln Lab working in machine learning and artificial intelligence. They both love coming back to Monterey, and for the first few months of the pandemic were very grateful to be living there full time as a family.

It was through the Kerns' restoration project that Frank and Michael White first became involved with the Bidwell House Museum. They were given opportunities to inspect the interior to help plan the renovation, since it dates from a similar time period. Neighbor Kathryn Roberts initially asked Frank to become involved, and he's serving a third term on the Bidwell House Museum's board of directors, currently as treasurer. He's been particularly passionate about and involved in the efforts to restore the museum as well as putting over one hundred acres of the museum land into conservation.

Serving on the Bidwell board, with Rob Hoogs at the helm, Frank characterizes it as "a very easy group to work with. We have a lot of fun." If that sounds like an invitation to join, give it a shot.

## Native Plants

Julie's involvement with the Monterey Native Plants Working Group began, you might say, circuitously. During their extensive restoration they laid out an additional driveway to access an existing cottage. Returning from New York, they were surprised to find the new driveway, while beautiful and winding, was not where they had planned it to be, and now made its way through wetlands. After the expected hearing with the conservation commission, the Kerns happily agreed to convert a part of the horse pasture into a native plants ecosystem. They worked with Bridghe McCracken from Helia Land Design to plant numerous species, and were then asked by Libby Wolf to give a talk at the newly completed community center titled "The Accidental Environmentalists." Janet Jensen came to the talk, and soon she asked if Julie would be involved in an effort to establish Monterey as a "Pollinator Friendly" town. Along with Libby and Janet, Judy Kaminstein, Marcy Pontell, and Myrna Rosen, the group is doing education and advocacy around native plants, including a garden tour last summer where the Kerns' house was one of the stops.

In concert with her passion for native plants and ecosystems, Julie has been engaged politically since 2017, co-founding and co-leading a grassroots organization, Markers For Democracy. They work on supporting diverse candidates for a variety of elections across the country, as well as voter education and registration.

In 2017, Frank decided to help Tom Brazie, who they'd known for many years through his landscaping services, realize his dream of raising livestock using the earth-friendly principles of rotational farming. Repurposing the Kolburne School in New Marlborough, Tom and his crew work many long hours to return the land to fertile soil and raise happy, healthy chickens, pigs, and cows. Frank can often be found heading over to The Farm New Marlborough to see what's new, and perhaps indulge in a cookie or some quiche from the farm store.

Not surprisingly, the conversation about finding and building their house accounted for much of my time with the Kerns. And why not? After so long a search for their heart's desire, and the years of happiness and family history it contains, it would be surprising were that not the case. For Frank it has special resonance, leading to his work with The Bidwell House; for Julie, her role with the Native Plants Working Group. One vignette summarizes it for me. Julie and Frank consulted with several people before buying the house, including Mark Amstead. When he saw it, he said: "Oh yeah. I remember this house. I used to mow the lawn." "Well what do you think?" they asked. Mark's reply: "Most people would run screaming from this house." Julie and Frank, dreaming, ran to it. And then made the dream come true.

—Bob Cutick

Expressions of Recovery:
Work presented by members of
the Gould Farm Community
thru March 5
Lean - Clean - Linear
Pauline Nault, recent work
March 11-April 16
KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library
Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

## Bidwell House Museum
### Public Forestry Meeting

The Bidwell House Museum would like to invite friends and neighbors from the Monterey community to a discussion of a proposed timber harvest in a portion of the museum forest. This harvest will have significant impact on the look and feel of the museum's trails, however this "sanitation cut" (see below) is necessary to responsibly manage our woodland resources. We encourage you to join our discussion by Zoom meeting on March 31, at 7 p.m., and an in-person pre-harvest tour on April 9, at 10 a.m. You can register for both programs via the "Events" page of the museum website.

The museum initiated public engagement regarding our forest stewardship objectives in January 2021 by hosting a Zoom meeting for the community. You can view the forest stewardship page of our website for an overview of our forest stewardship ethic, watch the recorded public meetings, and download the complete forest stewardship plan. Go to bidwellhousemuseum.org and click "The Museum" tab for a drop down menu showing "Forest Stewardship."

At the 2021 meeting, the musuem unveiled the comprehensive forest stewardship plan prepared in 2019. The current proposed forest cutting plan is part of the overall forest stewardship plan, but is limited to a "sanitation harvest." The proposed harvesting will be primarily the white ash trees that unfortunately are being infested with the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This invader was detected on the property in the fall of 2020. Once an ash tree is infested by EAB, it will likely die within approximately two years.

This proposed harvest is intended to utilize these resources before most of the white ash trees die. Once an ash tree dies, its market value is reduced to nearly zero. With this harvest, the museum hopes to capture the existing revenue from the sale of these trees while still possible and reduce the hazards of a high number of standing dead trees along our hiking trails.

The forest cutting plan is designed to utilize low-impact forest techniques to minimize the impacts of the work. However, we recognize that the cutting will be highly visible and the aftermath will be messy for a few years. Fortunately, the other trees in our forest will be retained.

We hope you will join us via Zoom and/or on a pre-harvest tour to learn more about the plans. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns at (413)-528-6888 or bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

—Heather Kowalski
Bidwell House Museum

## Mute Forebears

We walk the fields that they have freed of stone,
We rest beneath their roofs at close of day;
The fields and timber speak—but these alone—
Our fathers left no word, and went their way.
We have searched an attic, but ill in vain,
To find a little diary, a note,
Addressed "To Those Come" which might have lain
Covered with dust for years. But no one wrote.
And what it was that they were living by
They did not find it urgent to record,
Since values can be written in an eye,
And children would survive their final word.
Link holds to link; and, possibly, we go
More in their faded footprints than we know.

—Margery Mansfield
From Monterey's 100th Anniversary in 1947

## Sliding

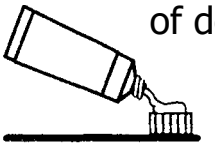
Careless of its cargo, the saucer wended
down the hill. Our daughter, who was three,
twisted in her snowsuit when her ride had ended
and squinting into the sun so we would see
shouted, "Again!" I shuffled back down the hill
and dragged the saucer up while she dragged me.

Later came a tantrum over bed,
her face so flushed I knew that she was ill.
I thought of the way her saucer had stopped dead
where the ribbons of trails gave out at the foot of the hill
and the high-school fields began like a frozen sea,
and how I'd heard her happy unstopped shout
and waved and gone back down the hill, since she
was someone who knew what sliding was about.

—Don Barkin
*(Don suggested this as a good post-Winterfest poem.)*

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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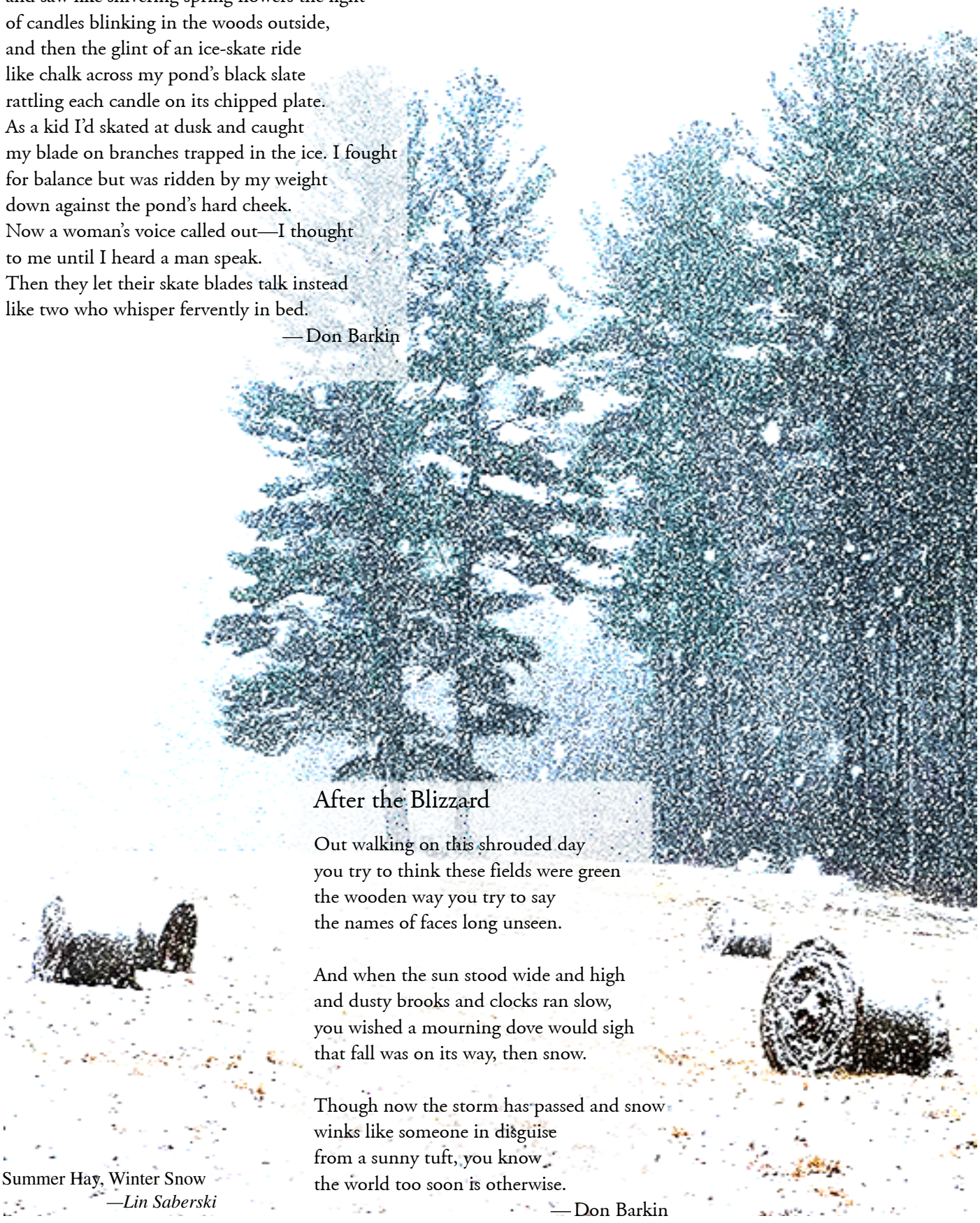
## At the Cabin

I shot up at the hiss—it was midnight—
and saw like shivering spring flowers the light
of candles blinking in the woods outside,
and then the glint of an ice-skate ride
like chalk across my pond's black slate
rattling each candle on its chipped plate.
As a kid I'd skated at dusk and caught
my blade on branches trapped in the ice. I fought
for balance but was ridden by my weight
down against the pond's hard cheek.
Now a woman's voice called out—I thought
to me until I heard a man speak.
Then they let their skate blades talk instead
like two who whisper fervently in bed.

—Don Barkin



## After the Blizzard

Out walking on this shrouded day
you try to think these fields were green
the wooden way you try to say
the names of faces long unseen.

And when the sun stood wide and high
and dusty brooks and clocks ran slow,
you wished a mourning dove would sigh
that fall was on its way, then snow.

Though now the storm has passed and snow
winks like someone in disguise
from a sunny tuft, you know
the world too soon is otherwise.

—Don Barkin

Summer Hay, Winter Snow
*—Lin Saberski*

# White for Winterfest

After weeks of fretting over the weather leading up to Winterfest, it snowed, not much, but enough. The Monterey Community Center held its first (potentially annual) Winterfest Sunday afternoon, February 20, with a new dusting of snow and a sunny winter day. Sledding was available for as long as the snow covered the ground, and determined young and old sledders took part. Over seventy folks came out in the sunshine to greet and play with neighbors and celebrate. The Winterfest was so successful due to the help of so many.

The Monterey Community Center committee put on the event with the generous help of many volunteers and a few monetary donations. Thanks to Tom and Josephine Ryan who were our "burn bosses" and kept the bonfire burning and the marshmallows browning throughout the event. (They also used up a fair bit of the snow to create the wee snow person and companion duckling.)

Thanks to Andrew Shaw who played festive tunes to really set the mood. Several folks were even boogying. Thanks to Laurie Shaw for cooking the hodogs, and Kyle Pierce and Kit Patton for the delicious chilis and corn muffins. Cookies and cider were donated by Gould Farm as well as cookies from others. Nadia Makuc put together a scavenger hunt that had some teens asking great questions and winding their way around the property. And thank you to Catherine Hurst for her great ideas and energy to offer the children's craft area. Attractive candles and paper bag lanterns were created.

Thanks to the community for coming together to take part in this wonderful afternoon. See you next year? —Wendy Jensen

*Thanks to Christine Cristinant, Maureen Banner, Maggie Barkin, Aldeth Lewin, and Wendy Jensen for photos.*

**Community Center Committee:** Laurie Shaw, Wendy Jensen, Wendy Germain, Dennis and Elaine Lynch, Kyle Pierce, Roz Halberstadter, Catherine Hurst, and JoAnn Bell, with Mary Makuc, MCC coordinator.

*Snowduckling and Snowman*

*Connie Wilson is laughing with Catherine Hurst, wh Catherine's daughter-in-law Lea, and her sons Konrad Wim, and Samuel look on.*

The crafts area had lots of activities for the kids.

Wendy Jensen answered questions from Josephine and Simone Ryan Waiveris, Sadie Citrin, and Phoebe Tryon for the scavenger hunt Nadia Makuc created.

The firepit was a conversation pit and marshmallow burner.

Lyric Simon worked on a paper lantern.

What's a party without food? With Kyle (in the orange) every party is an excuse to provide food, which she did along with several others.

Andrew Shaw DJ'd music.

The end—of this sled run, of the sledding snow, and of a great day for the community.

## Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Two years ago, a few neighbors and I planted a grove of young hemlocks to eventually replace the shade and views that were lost to the library expansion. Wanting to make sure the small trees did well, I asked Bridghe McCracken, the owner of Helia Native Nursery, if there was anything special we should do for them.

She mentioned a good fertilizer and plenty of water. But the very best thing I could do, she emphasized, was to find a healthy group of hemlocks in the forest, dig up some surrounding humus from the forest duff, make sure it contained white mycorrhizal threads, and put a small amount in each pit before the tree was planted.

I found a happy looking family of hemlocks by the bend in the Konkapot, and did exactly as she said. And all of the young trees have thrived. It has been a couple of wet years and all, but still, the vibrance and amount of growth astounds me. Last year a couple of the trees grew by three feet or more.

That advice came to mind several times while I was reading the revelatory *Search for the Mother Tree*, by Suzanne Simard. She is the researcher whose original, rigorous, and painstaking studies led to new knowledge about the ways in which trees communicate and assist one another. It turns out that the tiny fungal threads, the mycorrhizae, act like telephone wires passing information between trees. Her studies show that trees, and forests, are sentient, in the sense that they communicate and cooperate, respond intelligently to threats and changing environmental conditions, and give special help to kin, even as they are dying. Vast networks of underground mycorrhizae that act as a kind of nervous system among trees, that give the whole system a certain intelligence. What has been dubbed the "Wood Wide Web" knits the trees together into a whole much greater than their parts.

Janet Jensen

*A beloved, century-old spruce was cut down by mistake last fall on the property near town beach on Tyringham Road that once belonged to Helen Bidwell Shaw. "I couldn't believe my eyes," said Judy Hayes, Shaw's daughter, who now lives a short distance away, recalling her ride past the house on Thanksgiving Day. Her daughter, Karen Traymor, who now owns the house, was devastated by the loss. Although the tree removal company, which did the work under contract with National Grid, offered to reimburse her, as Karen wrote in a community post, "There is nothing they can do to unbreak my heart and restore the decimated tree." Indeed, the pieces of the fallen tree are a painful reminder of the loss, for both women. Karen had carefully rebuilt the house on its existing footprint, in part to preserve the integrity of the tree.*

Simard's work, complemented with that of other many other scientists, affirms what it seems like we should have known all along (or at least learned from the Native Americans who managed the forests sustainably for millennia): You can't really see the essential nature of forests by looking at individual trees. Forests are made up of relationships—of soil and moisture, fungi and microorganisms, chemical compounds, and a diverse mix of plants and animals, from tiny insects to mammalian predators. Plants do compete, of course, for nutrients and sunlight in a kind of Darwinian struggle to survive. But as Simard discovered, and as scores of other scientists have corroborated, forests are way more complex than that.

Forests are also incredibly good at soaking up carbon—not just in tree trunks, but in the roots and branches and stems and leaves, and even in the deep rich soil they help to build. Bigger trees increase substantially in volume every year. As they mature, their value as carbon "sinks" that can store atmospheric CO2 grows dramatically.

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Massachusetts has a lot to contribute when it comes to carbon sequestration. For starters, with forests covering more than 60% of the state, it is the tenth most forested in the country. Most of these forests are in the hands of private landowners and have grown up in what was abandoned farm or pastureland a century or so ago. Northeast secondary forests have the potential to increase biological carbon sequestration from two to four times, according to a recent article by William Moomaw, a leading environmental and climate scientist.

He identifies Western Massachusetts as having a particularly high potential for carbon storage because so many local trees are in the 70- to 125- year age range. It is those trees that can potentially store the most carbon in the coming, critical decades. Moomaw coined the term "proforestation" for the strategy of letting intact forests grow older and more complex, allowing fallen trees and roots to remain in place so they can hold on to soil and carbon. Tree planting, or afforestation, he suggests, is fine, but won't do much to help our current climate emergency. We need to soak up as much of the CO2 in the atmosphere as possible in the next few years as we transition to less carbon-intensive economies if we want to maintain a hospitable (maybe even habitable) planet.

I was thinking about all this one day in January, when, on a short walk from post office to lake, I counted thirty-five freshly cut trees, many of them fairly large ash and spruce. It's a scenario that has played out across the township, starting last year with the controversial cutting along New Marlborough Road. This year the logging rigs have been up and down Route 23, Tyringham Road, as well as Beartown and parts of Hupi Roads, wherever three-phase lines are to be found. "Basically we try to cut everything back eight feet from the field phase that could affect our lines," said Michael Dalo, a spokesman for National Grid in an email. It's part of what is called the "Enhanced Vegetation Management" program intended for heavily wooded areas with high customer count.

There are valid reasons for the project—Monterey Tree Warden, Kevin Fitzpatrick, estimates the extensive cutting has saved the Town of Monterey around $1.5 million. The aim is to avoid the power outages that have plagued this area as extreme weather and downed trees have become more common. State law grants considerable authority to the local tree wardens to approve such cutting—the select board does not ordinarily have an official role. National Grid makes a special effort to notify landowners in advance. Unfortunately, mistakes can happen.

So far, some one thousand trees have been taken down along forty-eight miles of a three-phase circuit that serves Monterey, the majority of New Marlborough, part of Great Barrington, and some roads in Sheffield, according to Dalo. (Another seven hundred or trees are slated for removal this year.) Fitzpatrick guessed that the total amount of wood cut might amount to a cord or cord-and-a-half per tree, most of which are good-sized. That's a lot of wood—a couple thousand cords before the project is done. The scale of that hit me when I read about a state sponsored Community Wood Bank Program, which seems like a great idea that may be coming to our area soon. In its first few years it proudly announced that it had delivered one hundred cords of wood.

The ash trees along our roads were likely doomed anyway due to the Emerald Ash Borer, which was first seen in Monterey just a few years ago and now threatens the entire species locally. (See page 14 to learn about the "sanitation harvest" planned by Bidwell House to address this.) And some of the downed maples were clearly struggling. Still, seeing so many trees cut down prophylactically, most of it chipped or cut for firewood, to abate a problem that they could also help prevent, is a bit jarring. "Clearcutting the town," I have heard it described.

All of the cut wood was first offered to local landowners, and to people who asked road crews about it, according to Dalo, who said National Grid does not make any money from the chips or logs. The work itself was not bid out but is billed out at an hourly rate from Tree Care of New York, a firm based in the western part of the state, near Buffalo. So far the bill has totaled around $1 million, Dalo wrote, and is expected to go considerably higher. In a gesture of thanks to Monterey for its partnership in the project, National Grid has planted two red maples on town property.

While I was mulling over all this tree cutting, I stopped by to check out the Brett Road timber sale that is ongoing in Beartown State Forest. It seems to be a well-considered management approach to dealing with some fairly unhealthy stands of trees: the ash will likely die soon anyway, and the red pine is a diseased, non-native species planted in rows back in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The aim is to promote a broader mix of native hardwoods by leaving a stand of seedling and sapling northern hardwoods (sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, and cherry) that are already established in the understory. A more vigorous and resilient mix of trees is anticipated.

We are losing trees for other reasons as well. Today I walked down the muddy road to the little park by the river and counted the number of trees lost in the last few years, including what looks to me like a slow-moving five-tree pileup toward the west end of the clearing. Ten large trees, by my count, have come down in the last three or four years, including an ash that was cut down a few years ago. It was this particular tree I had taken on as a kind of project soon after moving here, often visiting it and trying to communicate with it on a regular basis. I can't say my ability to talk to trees improved from that effort. But I am trying to become a better listener.

—Janet Jensen

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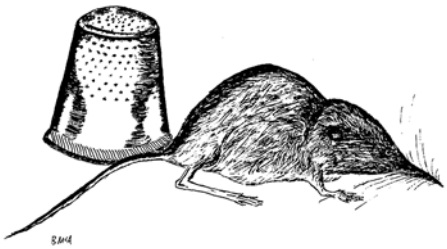
# Tales of the Shrews, Mighty and Tiny

Here in New England we are often lucky enough to see a shrew. They are small, they look like mice at first glance, and they mainly go about at night. This time of year that is likely to be under the snow but still we can see their tunnels, sometimes so close to the surface that there is some cave-in along the pathway. Other times they may scamper about on top of the snow. (For an example of a mysterious trail on top of the snow, which may or may not have been made by a shrew of one kind or another, see the Wildlife Report on page 26.)

Most people feel they know mice pretty well, and though mice will make a mess and even shred up some of our possessions for nesting material, they are still "household familiars." We know what we are dealing with, living with, when it is mice. A mouse is just a mouse, 100%.

Shrews on the other hand have inspired fear in folks, and been attributed with the power both to damage and to protect. Back in the day, or in the centuries, some English people believed shrews caused illness in cattle. As recently as 1770, farmers would make a charm to ward off these ailments by hanging a dead shrew around the neck of a cow or horse.



*Pygmy shrew and thimble*

People would fix up a certain ash tree by drilling a hole in the trunk and stuffing a hapless shrew in there alive, then plugging the hole. It was believed that now this "shrew-ash" could cure cattle of lameness, which they believed to have been caused by shrews in the first place. The shrew-ash was also a place folks would bring children to cure them of whooping cough. One British scientist, writing in 1957, tells of a shrew-ash in Richmond Park, in Surrey, where "within the life-time of people still living . . . people brought children to the shrew-ash."

The Inuit people also had fears of the water shrews in their part of the world. In 1887, E.W. Nelson wrote in his *Natural History (of Alaska) Collections Signal Service for the U.S. Army*: "People believe there to be a kind of water shrew living on the ice at sea. If disturbed by a person, the shrew would dart at the intruder, burrow under the skin, work about inside at random, finally enter the heart and kill him." Nelson says the hunters "are in mortal terror if they chance to meet a shrew on the ice at sea. In one case, a hunter stood immovable on the ice for several hours until a shrew he happened to meet disappeared from sight, whereupon he hurried home and his friends all agreed he had had a very narrow escape."

Other observers report that shrews have a sweet twittering song, so high pitched that it is not easily heard. A naturalist named Herrick was sleeping outdoors in November in Pine County, Minnesota, hoping to stay awake enough to see a shrew. His account: "The half-somnolent reverie which forms the prelude to slumber was broken by faint melodious sounds in an excessively high key—distinctly musical. Turned my eyes upon the fire-lit circle . . . within a few feet of my head, upon a decayed log, raced a pair of shrews, so minute as to escape my observation at first." He goes on to describe a shrew running right across his face, waking him, so he was alert and then heard a sharp crack overhead, so jumped aside just before a big tree trunk fell, right where he had been lying. Thanks to the shrew, this naturalist lived to tell the tale.

One remarkable power of the short-tailed shrew is that it has a poisonous bite. A neurotoxin is secreted by glands in the mouth and mixes with the saliva so that any creature bitten will receive some of this toxin. When meddling scientists injected some of this mix into mice, it produced a "state of semi-torpor in less than a minute." The heart was slowed, blood pressure lowered, and breathing inhibited. The toxic bite of a shrew is said by most to pose no danger to people, but one of those scientists did get bitten and experienced "instant burning sensation, then shooting pains in the arm, followed by considerable discomfort which lasted for over a week." I read also that this neurotoxin is the type that is found in cobras.

Shrews don't see very well, and it is hard for us to find their tiny eyes, or their >

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**Veterans gathered on Memorial Day in either 2003-2004.**

*Left to right: Steve Kahn, George Emmons, LeRoy Thorpe, Arnold Hayes, Richard Tryon, Steve Pullen, Larry Klein (kneeling), Arthur Wing, ?, Michael Feltzer, ?, ?, Dean Amidon, "Bob" Kenneth Heath Sr., Rev. Arthur Monk, Allen Dean, ?, ?, ?, Thomas Haugh, Frank D'Amato, ? Kneeling in front, Ian Jenkins, ?, Julio Rodrigues, Carl Champigny. Among those missing, but regularly attended over the years were Bill Bell, Martin Cherneff, Kenneth Heath Jr, Howard Nourse,Mort Sternberg, and many more.*

ears. We may get a close look at a shrew if some predator, even a house cat, catches one and kills it. The instinct is strong to grab any little mouse-like animal, but shrews have a musky smell which makes most predators not want to eat them. (The exceptions being those hunters who swallow a shrew whole, like owls, hawks, or big fish.) Our cat sometimes leaves a killed shrew right outside the door. I have had to use a hand lens to find the ears and eyes of a pygmy shrew. These creatures are three and a half inches long, nose to tip of tail, and weigh about one-tenth of an ounce. The nose is long and slim with thirty whiskers on each side. The whiskers near the tip are short and curved forward, the ones farther back are much longer. Many shrews use echolocation to find their way about, and maybe that's why they sing their twittering song.

Because they can't see well, they have strategies for keeping together on a family outing. The mother goes first, and then the babies follow in a line close behind, each one holding on to the next by taking a mouthful of fur on the rump. They travel like a small furry train. Shrews are about the size of honeybees when they are born.

Shrews are the smallest mammals. They are extremely active, all the time, with a heart that beats 1,200 times per minute. If they have to go more than four hours without anything to eat, they will starve. How can we identify with shrews? Just think of them, under the snow, with all their strategies and abilities. They were meant to live here, they fit right in. They do not cause illness in cattle.

—Bonner McAllester

## Fill the Veterans Memorial Park with a Photo Parade

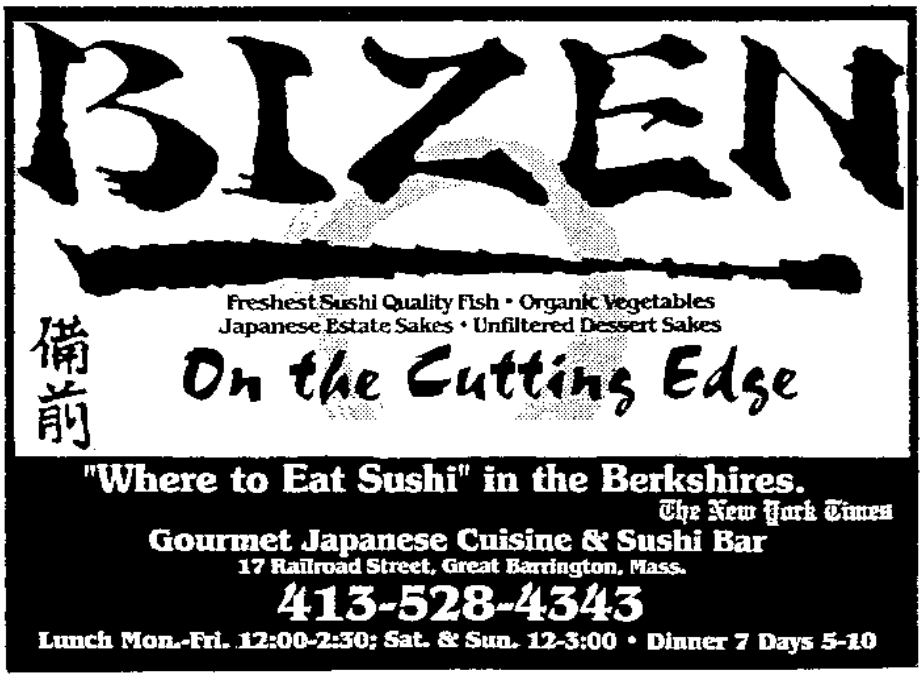
The Monterey Cemetery Commission is continuing to looking for photos of Monterey veterans both past and present. Digital copies can be sent to Melissa Noe, or a hard copy can be dropped off at the town hall. The hard copy will be returned to you in its original condition. Along with the photo, we would need the name, branch of service, and any other details you may have about their time served. Please spread the word to all veterans and families of past veterans. We would like to include as many of those who have passed on as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Noe at town hall, (413) 528-1443, ext.111, or email admin@montereyma.gov; or Linda Thorpe at (413) 429-7156 (cell), or (413) 528-0148, or email montereythorpe@gmail.com.

We ask that you get the information to us no later than April 1.

Thank you,

—Linda Thorpe, Cemetery Commissioner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## Letters
### Making Assumptions

The word "presumptuous" came to mind when I read Gary Shaw's statement in his February letter to the *Monterey News* (page 8) that he understands my "desire to cast doubt about Ms. Walker's veracity" because I "have been named in Ms. Walker's complaints." Actually, Mr. Shaw didn't understand. In my opinion, it's wrong for a person to assume another person's motives, either privately or certainly publicly.

In fact, Ms. Walker's complaint against me is inconsequential. I responded to her complaint to the select board quite some time after receiving it from Heather Bellow (from the *Berkshire Eagle*) and only after several people who had read it urged me to do so because my silence might be misinterpreted. I responded in detail because that's what I do. But certainly, I would never have spent time and energy on a public records search, a report of that search for the investigator, and a letter to the *Monterey News* because Terry Walker filed what I considered a dishonest but insignificant complaint about a phone conversation.

My actions came about because I care about other people in Monterey who are under fire. I care about what's happening to our town. I care about workplace honesty because, during my career, I witnessed events that made me particularly sensitive to that issue. Moreover, two former officials from other towns had come forward, unsolicited, with information that, if accurate, was clearly compelling. I decided to act because I care about the truth.

I have no problem with Gary Shaw making an argument against publishing my letter. I happen to disagree that public records information of a compelling nature about government officials should be rejected by an editor at any time, but Mr. Shaw is certainly entitled to say otherwise. When I emailed him expressing my feelings about his reference to my motives, he apologized. I appreciated that. However, his apology came to me alone in a private email. Since his was the second false assumption about my motives printed publicly in the *Monterey News*—the first made by Terry Walker in her response in the same issue—I wanted to set the record straight and appreciate the opportunity to do so.

—Ellen Coburn

## Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.

## Letters
### A Surprising Comment

While enjoying a beautiful day at Winterfest on February 20, I spoke to many members of the community who were experiencing the sunshine, food, and fun activities. My conversations included a few moments speaking with the *Monterey News* editor, Stephen Moore. Later in the day, I was approached by another member of the Monterey community who said they were very happy to see Steve and I talking to each other and getting along.

I was surprised to hear that they thought Steve and I would have a problem with each other because of the "Letter to the Editor" I wrote in last month's *News* criticizing an editorial choice he made. Nothing could be further from the truth. My letter reflected my opinion about a choice he made as editor. I certainly did not mean it as a personal attack. To his credit, Steve took my criticism of his decision in the spirit in which it was intended. He wrote a thoughtful response outlining his reasons for including the letters I objected to. I still disagree with him on that point, but that in no way reflects upon our cordial relationship.

Thanks for giving me a chance to set the record straight.

—Gary Shaw

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Aldeth Lewin

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## Northern Cardinal

The male cardinal, with a bright scarlet crest on his head, is a high- profile member of the finch family that decorates our bleak midwinter backyard snow drifts. The female is much less decorative, with dull-colored plumage painted by mother nature to camouflaged her sitting on the nest. Northern cardinals are classified as passerines, which is a large group of perching song birds, with three toes pointing forward and one pointing back, to be able to stand on a tree limb or firmly grasp a holly branch, as in my illustration.

The male sings to let everyone know he is looking for a mate and for any other males to stay out of his territory. When he finds a mate he flutters his wings from side to side next to her, dancing for joy. She often repeats his tune, and they may serenade each other in approval all day long. Cardinals can sing up to ten different songs, and when they harmonize together on just one it is a musical sign of agreement.

One song is familiar once you've heard it—a high pitched "chip-chip, followed by what sounds like "what cheer, what cheer," followed by "wheat, wheat, wheat." Cardinals make their musical tones with nine pairs of muscles in their syrinx in their throats, which tighten and relax to generate the notes they want for the intended song. At the turn of the twentieth century the cardinals expanded out of their southern range into some northern states, and into suburban and residential areas.

Mockingbirds increased their range at about the same time, and with an even more flexible ability to mimic a wide variety of bird calls, including those of the cardinals. When this extraordinary musical orchestration comes into your neighborhood with the spring, you will be blessed with a concert experience worthy of poetic verse.

Her song combines with the notes he brings
From tree to tree, carried on its wings.
Such beauty rarely heard, he often brings
His music and fills our hearts as he sings.

—George Emmons

Lin Saberski

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# The Beloved Community, Part 1

*"The Beloved Community" Some call that possibility a pipe dream. Others call it a vision, a prophecy, a creative work of art. For others, it's a work in progress, and participation in its creation a hallmark of a life well lived. — Fiber Artwork by Mary Kate Jordan*

I'm aware that by the time you read this, full-scale war may be underway in the Eastern European part of our world community. If so, we'll be impacted, not only with likely higher gas prices, but in other, perhaps far more uncomfortable, ways as well. Democracy does come at a price, even when it looks like it's somebody else's democracy.

But democracy is at risk in the community we call the United States, too. That risk is currently showing up in multiple, deliberate, and nefarious challenges to—even negation of—certain citizens' right to vote. This particular discrimination is focused primarily on communities of color in other parts of the country, so this opposition may feel unimportant here, hidden away in the Berkshire Hills. But let's not pretend that everyone in our country shares this security.

Monterey's an overwhelmingly white community, so let each of us majority-group members take a deep look within. And if compassion for apparent "others" hasn't risen in our own hearts strongly enough yet to make its presence known, maybe a little self-interest will do the trick. Remember, as German pastor Martin Niemöller famously said, *"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."*

The limitations on voting rights of non-white, particularly Black, citizens isn't new. It's just news, again, as it was fifty-seven years ago this month. As part of an attempt to register non-white voters in the South, civil rights leaders planned a five-day, fifty-four-mile march in Alabama. They would walk peacefully from Selma to Montgomery, the state capitol, to bring attention to the systemic and sustained obstacles standing in the way of their voting.

The phrase was coined by Josiah Royce, early twenthieth-century American philosopher and founding member of The Fellowship of Reconciliation. In his time, Dr. King was also a leading member of the FoR. Like other lineage holders in the organization, he honored those who had come before him and also put his own stamp on the concept. He described it as "a group of people that could come together to solve any social issue, division, or struggle." Later, he and his friend, Zen Buddhist monk, poet, and peacemaker Thich Nhat Hanh, would work together toward building Beloved Community in the world. After Dr. King's assassination, Thich Nhat Hanh dedicated the rest of his life to his growing understanding of this vision.

On one of the protesters' peaceful marches to Montgomery—which actually required three marches—they were confronted by local police and white supremacists on Selma's Edmund Pettis Bridge. During the conflict, one of the officers fractured later-Congressman John Lewis' skull with two blows of a billy club. He was one of more than eighty marchers who required hospital treatment. After securing federal protection, the marchers made their way to the state capitol before the end of the month. Six months later, President Johnson signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act into law. Those rights are being eroded while I'm writing this article, while you're reading it. What both Dr. Martin Luther King and Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh referred to as "The Beloved Community" is still a work in progress. But it's work well worth doing.

A memorial march from Selma to Montgomery will be underway this month, both to commemorate that first civil rights march, and to focus attention on voting injustice at large today. Two of my friends plan to participate in the ten-mile segment of the walk scheduled for March 9. With their permission, I hope to use some of my post-event conversations with them to provide you with feet-on-the-ground insight into that walk, as well as continue my focus on the birth pangs of "The Beloved Community."

— Mary Kate Jordan

ॐ

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## Ice Formations

It seems every year someone sends in photos of really interesting ice formations. This year Lin Saberski sent the *News* a trove of really beautiful images (both upper photos, and lower left, as well as others.)

The lower right image are icy discs that get constantly spun by the water rushing out of a culvert to the left along New Marlboro Road. The set gets circulated clockwise against the inside of the fixed ice, building into nearly perfect circles. They were gone the next day, but new ones appeared again a few days later.

—Stephen Moore

ॐ

# February Wildlife Report
## Chipmunks to Ticks

Spring came in February, a month famous for love and for more sunshine every day. The titmice have been singing their spring song ("Peter, Peter, Peter"), chipmunks came up from their winter hide-outs, and the first ticks of the year are looking for a meal. I found one February 21, walking on my iPad.

Late in January, Ann Higgins noticed a strange looping track across the driveway and on towards the schoolhouse. She sent a photo (above). At first glance it looks like a small rodent of some kind, twirling along inexplicably, and that may be just what it is. One naturalist writer thinks it is an unfortunate meadow vole that got bitten by a short-tailed shrew and was feeling the effects of the toxic bite, a neurotoxin. Another experienced tracker proposed it might *have been a shrew*, somehow hunting on top of the snow, scouting for a vole or some other prey down under. I read somewhere that these little hunters have such a high metabolism that having bitten a snake or vole or something, they cannot sit still and just wait for the toxic bite to take effect. The shrew has to run in circles burning up calories waiting for the prey animal to be paralyzed by the bite. Three different possibilities, take your pick, or dream up another one!

People have been noticing the black vultures of Great Barrington, and now

we have a great photograph (above) from a friend who was walking in the Tyler Arboretum near Philadelphia and came upon a black vulture feast scene. Bruce Birchard is an outdoorsman who lives in New Jersey and reads the *Monterey News* Wildlife Report. It's clear this bird is darker, and glossier than our familiar turkey vultures. And the head is not red.

Bonsai Cox saw a bright speck of red in a dark hemlock tree: a cardinal. She also has

been seeing deer scooping up seeds below the bird feeder (below left), and a chipmunk up and about and maybe headed for the same snacking place (below). Besides this, possums have been coming for the birdseed, and Bonsai sent several photos of them. Bruce Wilkins also sent a great photograph (at right) of a possum. Bruce is the one who spotted that insect larva out on the snow last month and took a photograph of it (bottom left next page). We now know, thanks to him, that it is the caterpillar of the Large Yellow Underwing Moth. These caterpillars, also called winter cutworms, are often seen up above ground in winter. Mostly they stay down below, munching on the roots of grasses and other vegetation. They survive freezing temperatures because they produce certain kinds of anti-freeze that keeps their blood from making ice crystals.

Maybe ticks do this, too. We gardeners know the "cutworms" of the summertime, which come up at night and lop off little broccoli seedlings, or even potato stems. All you see the next day is the "stump."

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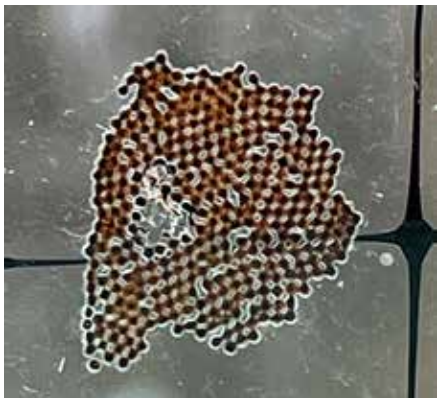
Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen saw their local bobcat visitor at the edge of the field near the firewood pile, and Mary Kate Jordan found a bobcat track. At first I wondered if it might be a canine footprint, but the track is too rounded and there are no claw-marks showing.

We have more tracks photographs from Bonsai Cox, including what looks like a regular highway of mice headed out from the woods for birdseed (right), though it may well have been the same happy mouse making many trips back and forth. Bonsai also sent a handsome photograph she labeled "winter tracks" from Great Barrington, down by the railroad crossing. She photographed these tracks on a cold day, but they may have melted in the next thaw. (Ho, ho.)

*Cont. on page 28*

Michael and Maureen Banner discovered mysterious eggs recently deposited artistically on their window. They sent a photograph (top right). They also saw a line of fox tracks in the snow, and some dry leaves had blown across the surface and dropped into each track (bottom, center column). Another photograph shows a place where a squirrel has dug down through the snow to get at something delicious stashed there (at right). The Banners were visited by a "fluffy, slow-walking bobcat" at their place, and so were Dennis and Elaine Lynch. They wrote that the "elegant-looking bobcat was lurking around our backyard on the hunt for an afternoon snack," and they took its picture (right column).



*Wildlife, cont. from page 28*

Neighbor Bob Carlson was out in the new snow one morning and came upon the tracks of Big Foot (also known as Sasquatch) up on Hunger Mountain. He took a great photograph. Are those claw marks out in front? Or—is Big Foot wearing micro-spikes?

Thank you, everyone. Watch for pussy willows, skunk cabbage blossoms, and for more spring humor.

—Bonner McAllester
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## Lost Boy Found

On Wednesday, February 23, the *Berkshire Eagle* and *Berkshire Edge* published stories about an eight-year-old boy who got lost by wandering into the woods along Fairview Road. Both articles relied heavily on the various safety agencies that responded to the situation—Monterey PD, Monterey Fire Company, Great Barrington PD, state police with two K-9 units, and even from Williamstown PD. Both articles made a reference to "a local resident" who assisted in the search.

Barbara Swann contacted the *Monterey News* to suggest John Weingold be contacted to tell his story as the "local resident" who "assisted." Below is John's story.

It all started when I heard a woman yelling a name on Fairview Road. I thought she lost a dog. I walked towards the road from my house at 68 Fairview as she started down my driveway towards me. She asked had I seen a young boy? I hadn't. She had tears flowing and was very upset. Her son Simeon, age eight, was missing for two hours since he walked up the ridge in the woods. She told me the color of the clothes he was wearing and she said he looked like "a little elf."

She was staying at 46 Fairview Road in a short-term rental. I told her I would call the police. I returned to my house to get my cell phone and called Monterey police, which was routed to Berkshire County dispatch service. I was concerned that they might have found the child and he had returned to the rental house already. Soon I heard the sirens from a cruiser

*Photo courtesy of MA State Police Facebook page.*

in town and I met the duty officer Nate Sermini, on Fairview Road. I told him the family is down at "Overbrook," at 46 Fairview, and I was heading there to learn the status of the search.

Officer Sermini went to Overbrook and talked with the family. I overheard him say he was going to get a K9 unit to assist. I said I'd go look for the boy up by my home and by the swamp and woods areas, but he instructed me not to so as to not dirty the trail for the dogs. I checked out the portion of the swamp and woods visible from the road.

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Great Barrington Ma. 01230
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Simeon's mother gave me a recent photograph of him. I took a picture of it and sent it to someone hoping to have it posted on the Monterey-Community Google group, which apparently never got done. I also sent a copy to Jim Edelman to post on his group. The officer wasn't sure it would be posted on the Blackboard alert system.

I had a couple of opportunities to meet people along the road during the search and shared the photo with them; no one had seen him. I decided to drive the loop of Fairview and Beartown Mountain Road to see if he was along the road. I found that the highway department had posted a truck on Route 23, another by the swamp, and Jim Hunt, our road foreman, was driving along Fairview.

By the time I returned to Overlook there were eight cars parked along the road include two cruisers from Great Barrington. Not a good sign.

I decided when I got home to check an old abandoned cabin and shed down by my house. Sometimes kids decide to hide. While I was doing that I saw a state trooper vehicle and two K9 units pull into the muddy driveway nearby. One of the dogs, a German shepherd, searched all around the cabin area. And then the dog headed down to the brook as though he was on a scent trail, but he wasn't.

We all walked back up towards my house and checked all around the sheds, underneath the decks, etc. The other K9 was off-leash at my home and then disappeared. I thought the dogs were useless. When the other officers drove out to Fairview I said I'm going to head down to the swamp. The dogs had already been running around everywhere and hadn't found a scent.

I played my hunch and went to the other end of the swamp, which still had snow, but no footprints. As I walked along the back property line I heard a faint yelling, "I need help, I need help, someone help me!" I started to yell back at him with his name, and he went silent. I quickly called the dispatch service and said I think I'd found the boy. "Up at 46 Fairview?" "No, behind 68 Fairview." I stayed on the line and kept yelling his name. "Where are you?" and he replied, "Near a big tree." The PD dispatcher asked if I found him. "No, I only hear him, can't see him yet." About one hundred yards to my right I saw an officer in yellow, and called to him that I thought I found the boy. The officer asked, "Where?" and I told him about two hundred yards in front of me.

As we approached, the boy's voice got louder and he appeared out into a small opening where we could see him. When we got to him he said he was alright. "What happened?" "I saw some turkeys and I chased them." When he was told that he should've told him parents he replied that he did. I led them out of the woods by my driveway and there were three cruisers waiting for us. They took Simeon down to 42 Fairview and apparently that's where the photo was taken that appeared in the papers. He was reunited with his mother around noon after four-and-a-half hours—a great deal of relief among us all. Thank yous all around, shaking hands.

It was a rollercoaster emotional day but in the end everybody was very very happy and thankful.

—John Weingold

## Monterey Big Year
### Birds in Monterey

Hello fellow bird lovers!

Here is a brief recap of my February birding in Monterey and the friendly birders who have helped me. Kate Ryan and Carol Edelman allowed me to view birds at their feeders. Did you know different habitats attract different birds? Kate's feeders are near a large open space where a flock of red winged blackbirds have begun to visit. Carol's feeders are tucked more into the forest about five miles away where a Carolina Wren visits regularly.

One day last month, both Carol and Kate texted me (Kate at 11:05 on a Wednesday and Carol around 11:15 on a Friday) with reports of a red-bellied woodpecker at their respective feeders. These were definitely two different birds considering the distance between their houses. I wondered if it was just a coincidence that the two woodpeckers were 11 a.m. feeder visitors?

Several days later I went to Carol's on a cold morning around 10:30 a.m. and waited for the red-bellied woodpecker, testing to see if it would show up around

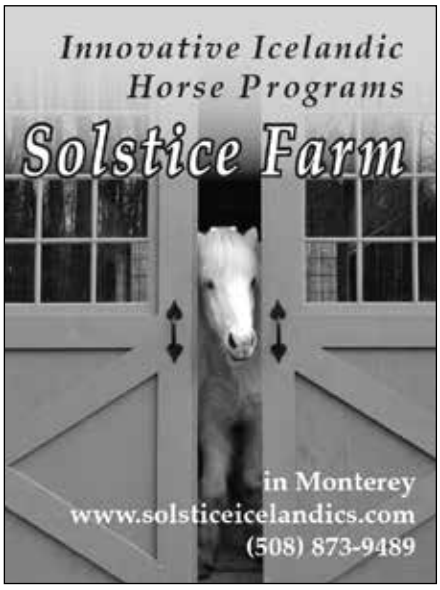
Carol Edelman

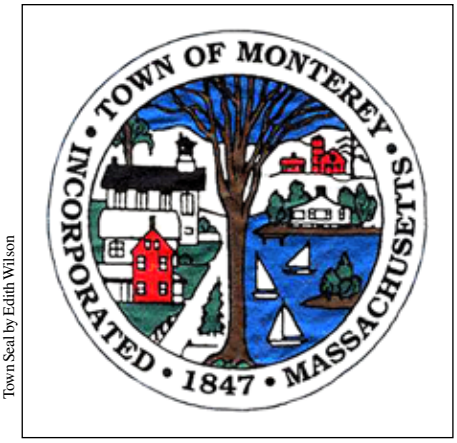
11. Like clockwork, I was delighted when it arrived at 11:06! Coincidence? Significant? Definitely intriguing.

Check the photo: A note about this woodpecker's name: Its *least* distinctive feature is its red belly—unusually difficult to see. But its bright red patch extending from the top of its head down to the back of its neck makes most folks think its name should be red-headed woodpecker. However that name is already taken by a species that has an entirely red head.

As of February 28 we have thirty-six species on the list. Kate Ryan thinks our town can easily reach one hundred! I am continuing with my Big Year quest for the Town of Monterey. Would you like to help? Contact me by emailing pbanducci@gmail.com, or calling me at (413) 645-2035.

—Pauline Banducci






Town Seal by Edith Wilson

## MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Steven Weisz, Chair
John Weingold and Justin Makuc
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(johnweingold@gmail.com)
(justin@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.

For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose "Agendas" or "Minutes." Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

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## Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

**Town Administrator:**
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admin@montereyma.gov
**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
**Community Center:** 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
**Fire Department** (non-emergency):
528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov
**Highway Department:** 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
**Library:** 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
**Police Department** (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
**Post Office:** 528-4670
**SBRSD** (Schools): (413)-229-8778
**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Dates and times are subject to change. Call (413) 447-2597 to confirm.

www.berkshirehealthsystems.org/bloodmobile

www.facebook.com/bhsbloodmobile

Appointments suggested. If you want to schedule a donation at any of these locations or want the BHS Bloodmobile to visit your business, call (413) 447-2597. Your donation of blood replenishes the local supply and serves your community directly.

You can also donate blood at: BMC Blood Donor Center, ground floor, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## BHS Bloodmobile Local Schedule

**Thursday, March 3:** Great Barrington Fire Department, beginning at 9 a.m.
**Thursday, March 24:** Fairview Hospital, beginning at 9 a.m.

See the ad for information about making an appointment or for other Berkshire County locations.

## Calendar

**Tuesdays:**
Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., library.
Bridge and cards, 1 p.m. MCC.
**Wednesdays:** Ping pong, 2:30 to 4:30, MCC.
**Saturdays:** Ping pong, 2:30 p.m., MCC.
**Wednesday, March 9:** Bidwell House Museum lecture series, 7 p.m. Mohican presence in northwest CT. See page 11.
**Sunday, March 13:** Games with Aldeth, 3 p.m., MCC.
**Tuesday, March 15:** Deadline for applications to Berkshire Taconic scholarship and grant funds. See page 7.
**Wednesday, March 23:** Bidwell House Museum lecture series, 7 p.m. Screening *The Great Falls*. See page 11.
**Saturday, March 26:**
Rabies clinic, 10 a.m. to noon, firehouse.
Democratic party caucus, 10:30 a.m. Location TBD. See page 2.
Republican party caucus, 1:30 p.m., location TBD. See page 2.
**Thursday, March 31:** Bidwell House Museum forestry discussion, 7 p.m. See page 14.
**Friday, April 1:** Mindfulness meditation, MCC, 4 to 5 p.m. See page 30.

## More Winterfest

At right, above: Paul DePreter, Joann Bell, and Kay Purcell having fun moving to the music by Andrew Shaw.
At right, below: Catherine Hurst rolled out sheets of beeswax for candlemaking.
—Photos by Christine Christinat

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

**dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number:

**(413) 236-0925**.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

**528-3211**

*Ice fishing and skating on Lake Garfield.* —*Lin Saberski*

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)528-4007 or email.

## Council on Aging Services

**Wellness Clinic:** The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, March 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. Appointments to take blood pressure and do an assessment can be made by calling (413) 528-1443, ext. 247, or emailing amy@tritownhealth.org for a fifteen-minute appointment.

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, March 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247 if you'd like more information about the program.

**Transportation:** For seniors and people with disabilities. Trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

**Foot Nurse:** Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. Council on Aging covers $10 of her fee.

**Free Safety Vests:** Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

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| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

Summer hours begin March 13
Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 1:30–5 p.m.
Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday..... 4–8 p.m.
Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
..... & 7–9 p.m.
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MontereyMassLibrary.org

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*Maureen Banner, pgs. 5, 7;*
*George Emmons, p. 23; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.*

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